

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IOE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 OIC-02 /062 W

-----211501Z 126878 /47

O R 211130Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2279

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBESSY ACCRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO, IT

SUBJ: RESCHEDULING ILO WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: STATE 12607

ACCRA FOR HOROWITZ

1. EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER CALLED ON COUNSELOR SICA, HEAD OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ILO/ICEM DESK TO URGE ITALIAN SUPPORT FOR US EFFORT TO REARRANGE SHEDULE OF WPS MEETINGS AND IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION OF THAT SUPPORT TO WPS GOVERNMENT GROUP CHAIRMAN AZIMI AS PER REFTEL, AND TO UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO STRUCTURAL ISSUE AND PRESERVATION OF TRIPARTITE NATURE OF ILO, IN LIGHT OF US LETTER OF INTENT. SICA, WHO KNEW OF INSTRUCTION CABLE AND WAS EXPECTING DEMARCHE, IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED
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SYMPATHY WITH DESIRABILITY OF POSTPONING MEETING TO GIVE NEW US ADMINISTRATION TIME TO STUDY ILO QUESTION.

2. SICA EXPRESSED GOI'S SUPPORT FOR TRIPARTITE PRINCIPLE IN ILO AND FOR MANY USG POSITIONS, HOWEVER, HE OBSERVED THAT GOI (I.E. AGO), IS ATTEMPTING TO HELP RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THE ILO STRUCTURE AT ALL

AND THOSE WHO WANT TO CHANGE EVERYTHING. SICA SAID GOI MADE CLEAR THIS ITALIAN DISPOSITION TO BRING ABOUT AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OPPOSING POSITIONS ON THE STRUCTURAL ISSUE TO ILO DG BLANCHARD DURING HIS VISIT HERE JANUARY 18. IN LIGHT OF THIS ROLE, SICA SAID, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR GOI TO TAKE THE LEAD IN URGING "POSTPONEMENT" OF THE FEB 7 SESSION, SO HE WAS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN ITALY WOULD NOT MAKE A WRITTEN REQUEST TO AZIMI SUPPORTING THE US "DEMAND", OR TAKE AN OPEN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT IT, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY BE HAPPY TO AGREE TO IT. HE SAID APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS WOULD STUDY, ON AFTER-NOON OF JANUARY 20, WHAT RESPONSE TO TAKE TO THE US DEMARCHE. HE WAS CERTAIN THE EC-9 WOULD MEET ON THIS MATTER IN GENEVA AND HE COULD ENVISION A COMMON EC APPROACH SUPPORTING RESCHEDULING ON BEHALF OF MOST EC MEMBERS, INCLUDING ITALY.

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT PURPOSE OF RESCHEDULING, FROM USG POINT OF VIEW, WAS FOR WESTERN INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES TO FURTHER COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS, NOT FOR REVIEW OF ILO POLICY BY NEW ADMINISTRATION. EMBOFF UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE IN MAKING ILO UNIQUE AND USEFUL ORGANIZATION AND NOT JUST CARBON COPY OF UNGA, AND USG VIEW THAT ANY SHIFT TO REGIONAL OR GEOGRAPHIC CRITERIA FOR ILO GB WOULD INEVITABLY ERODE TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AND THUS ILO'S USEFULNESS AND VALIDITY. SICA DISAGREED THAT GEOGRAPHIC CRITERIA FOR GB GOVERNMENT MEMBERS WOULD NECESSARILY AFFECT WORKER OF EMPLOYER AUTONOMY AND THUS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN AT A GROWING TENDENCY ON SOME GROUP OF 77 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE THEIR WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES VOTE AND ACT IN UNISON WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS. HE COMMENTED THAT

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THIS WAS CERTAINLY NOT TRUE OF ITALY, WHERE THE THREE USUALLY DISAGREED.

4. COMMENT. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT RESCHEDULING, THOUGH FOR REASONS DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, UNLIKELY TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE IN THE MATTER, AND DECISION OF EN-9 WILL BE CONTROLLING. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: ELAB, IT, ILO
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